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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Tenth Conference

Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers 2012-2017

Summary**

The report provides a summary of the activities of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names during the 2012-2017 period.

According to the report, three new tasks/issues were proposed and added to the scope of work and to the workplan of the Working Group at the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The Working Group agreed on the methods to be used to set up the online discussion forum on the website. In that regard, three separate forum pages for specific topics have been created and initial documents uploaded to the site.

According to the agreed actions for the 2016-2017 period, the Working Group has, among other things, assisted the Bureau of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in cooperating with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to emphasize, promote and support the tasks and activities of the Group of Experts.

The Working Group has monitored activities and deliverables of the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 211, the Open Geospatial Consortium and the Unicode Consortium.

The Working Group has continued to provide consultancy and technical advice concerning the content and structure for data files and gazetteers, among others, through toponymic training courses in Madagascar (2013), Algeria (2014) and Brazil (2017).

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany), Convenor, Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers, and is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/42/CRP.42.

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Besides the maintenance of the online discussion forum, several Working Group members have contributed articles about national efforts for databases and gazetteers to bulletins of the Group of Experts and participated in national and international events related to Working Group issues.